

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for performing an override function in a point of sale ("POS")
2. terminal, comprising the steps of:
 3. receiving a first input from an operator of the POS terminal;
 4. determining that the first input from the operator of the POS terminal requires
5. an override procedure before further operation of the POS terminal can proceed;
 6. notifying the operator of the POS terminal that the override procedure is
7. required;
 8. receiving a second input from a biometrics device coupled to the POS
9. terminal, wherein the second input is produced in response to a biometric reading by
10. the biometrics device of a person;
 11. comparing the second input to a list of authorized inputs; and
 12. automatically performing the override procedure if the second input matches
13. an authorized input in the list of authorized inputs.
1. 2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 2. continuing further operation of the POS terminal after the override procedure
3. has been performed.
1. 3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the override procedure comprises a
2. series of commands operated within the POS terminal.

1 4. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the second input matches the
2 authorized input when the person is authorized to commence the override procedure.

1 5. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the biometrics device is remotely
2 coupled to the POS terminal through a computer network coupled to the POS
3 terminal.

1 6. A point of sale ("POS") terminal, comprising:
2 an input device for receiving a first input from an operator of the POS
3 terminal;
4 circuitry for determining that the first input from the operator of the POS
5 terminal requires an override procedure before further operation of the POS terminal
6 can proceed;
7 an output device for notifying the operator of the POS terminal that the
8 override procedure is required;
9 a biometrics device;
10 an input/output adaptor for receiving a second input from the biometrics
11 device, wherein the second input is produced in response to a biometric reading by the
12 biometrics device of a person;
13 circuitry for comparing the second input to a list of authorized inputs; and
14 circuitry for automatically performing the override procedure if the second
15 input matches an authorized input in the list of authorized inputs.

1 7. The POS terminal as recited in claim 6, further comprising:
2 circuitry for continuing further operation of the POS terminal after the
3 override procedure has been performed.

1 8. The POS terminal as recited in claim 6, wherein the override procedure
2 comprises a series of software commands operated within the POS terminal.

1 9. The POS terminal as recited in claim 6, wherein the second input matches the
2 authorized input when the person is authorized to commence the override procedure.

1 10. A method for reconfiguring a point of sale ("POS") terminal, comprising the
2 steps of:

3 replacing an input device coupled to the POS terminal that outputs an
4 authorization signal in response to a manual insertion of a physical key with a
5 biometrics device that outputs the authorization signal in response to a biometric
6 reading of a person; and

7 reprogramming software in the POS terminal to automatically perform a series
8 of override commands upon receipt of the authorization signal from the biometrics
9 device.

1 11. A computer program product operable for performing an override function in
2 a point of sale ("POS") terminal, the computer program product adaptable for storage
3 on a computer storage medium, comprising the program steps of:

4 receiving a first input from an operator of the POS terminal;
5 determining that the first input from the operator of the POS terminal requires
6 an override procedure before further operation of the POS terminal can proceed;
7 notifying the operator of the POS terminal that the override procedure is
8 required;

9 receiving a second input from a biometrics device coupled to the POS
10 terminal, wherein the second input is produced in response to a biometric reading by
11 the biometrics device of a person;

12 comparing the second input to a list of authorized inputs; and
13 automatically performing the override procedure if the second input matches
14 an authorized input in the list of authorized inputs.

1 12. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, further comprising the
2 program step of:

3 continuing further operation of the POS terminal after the override procedure
4 has been performed.

1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the override
2 procedure comprises a series of commands operated within the POS terminal.

1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 13, wherein the second
2 input matches the authorized input when the person is authorized to commence the
3 override procedure.

1 15. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the biometrics
2 device is remotely coupled to the POS terminal through a computer network coupled
3 to the POS terminal.